

REMARKS

Independent claims 1 and 20 have each been amended to recite that the component (e.g., the focusing lens 216 in FIGs. 11-12) is moved "along the optical path along which the light beam is directed." This is not true for U.S. Patent No. 6,098,877 to Barkan, wherein the lenses 172a, 172b are moved "across" the path, or for U.S. Patent No. 4,129,369 to Kobayashi, wherein the lens 2 is also moved "across" the path. Allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

A terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,119,944 to Barkan is enclosed to obviate the double patenting rejection, together with the disclaimer fee.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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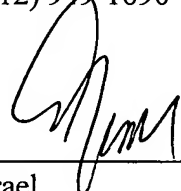
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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 1 & 20

1. (twice amended) A portable instrument for electro-optically reading coded indicia over an extended range of working distances, comprising:

a) a housing having a size and a shape configured to be held in a user's hand during reading;

b) a plurality of electrical and optical components supported by the housing, for directing a light beam along an optical path toward the indicia for reflection therefrom and for detecting light reflected from the indicia over a field of view, one of the components being movable between first and second positions in which said one of the components is operative for optically modifying at least one of the light beam and the reflected light at first and second optical areas, respectively; and

c) a manual actuator mounted on the housing for actuation and movement by the user, the actuator being mechanically connected to said one of the components and being operative for manually directly moving said one of the components along the optical path between the first and second positions during joint movement with the actuator to selectively optically modify said at least one of the light beam and the reflected light at the first and second optical areas, respectively.

20. (twice amended) A portable instrument for electro-optically reading coded indicia over an extended range of working distances, comprising:

a) a housing having a size and shape configured to be held in a user's hand during reading;

b) a plurality of electrical and optical components supported by the housing, for directing a light beam along an optical path toward the indicia, one of the components being movable between a first position in which said one of the components is operative for focusing the light beam at a first focus located in the range, and a second position in which said one of the components is operative for focusing the light beam at a second focus located in the range, the first and second foci being located at different working distances relative to the housing; and

c) a manual actuator mounted for actuation and movement by the user on the housing, the actuator being mechanically connected to said one of the components and being operative for manually directly moving said one of the components along the optical path between the first and second positions during joint movement with the actuator to selectively focus the light beam at the first and second foci, respectively, during reading.